

KSL NEWS



Protesters at Utah Capitol Over Supposed Illegal Workers

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The protest wasn't very big, but the message was. Members of the Utah Minutemen gathered outside the capitol to protest what they say are employers hiring illegal aliens to do state projects.

After guarding the US-Mexico border, Wally McCormick is used to heat.

Wally McCormick, Utah Minuteman: "The employers have to quit hiring illegals and hiring citizens, that's what we need."

He and fellow Utah minutemen protested at the state capitol today, saying illegal workers shouldn't be hired and the state should punish those who do.

Alex Segura, Utah Minuteman: "The powers out there, the corporations, they have big bucks. What we've got is the change in our ashtrays."

Their appearance at the capitol was significant. The group says it has information illegal workers have worked on this renovation project. We asked Jacobsen Construction if that was true.



David Welling, Jacobsen Construction: "Once in a while one will get by us. We don't have a duty to verify, we have a duty to review."

David Welling doesn't know for sure if an illegal has worked at the capitol, but admits through the years his company may have inadvertently hired one. He says internal company audits on employee's paperwork catches them.

David Welling: "We'll do that self-audit from time to time, and dig a little deeper and when we find somebody, they're terminated if they can't prove their documents are legitimate."

It's something Utah minutemen would like to see before they're hired.

Wally McCormick: "The employees have an opportunity and a means to verify the people are citizens and not illegals, but because they aren't forced to do so, or required to do so, they don't do it."

Still, hiring illegals is illegal.

Gov. Jon Huntsman: "We have laws on the books, and corporations are expected to live by these laws, and if something fell through the cracks, then whoever the violator was needs to answer for that and address it legitimately."

Through the years Jacobsen Construction says maybe only a half dozen workers were let go because

they couldn't prove their documents were real. Again, the company isn't sure any of those workers have worked at the capitol.

The Capitol Preservation Board would only say it trusts the company to hire legal workers.